

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MILWAUKEE
GLOBAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

Professor Robert J. Beck
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Pearse Hall 151
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Spring 2005
GLOBAL *90-LS, -BUS (Section 2)
Garland 104
Wednesday 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

**Think Tank Learning Community:
Globalization and Current Trends**

OVERVIEW: This “think tank learning community” course seeks to provide students with an opportunity to discuss in a structured setting some of the most important current developments in the global realm. Framed by a prominent television panel show, its focus will alternate between general trends in “world affairs” and more specific global topics such as “world finance” and “U.S. intelligence.”

REQUIRED READINGS

- “IWA News Brief” materials associated with weekly *International Focus* television show
- Viewing of weekly *International Focus* television show (broadcast at 5:00 PM on MPTV -- Channel 36)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading assignments, to be completed prior to class.
2. Viewing of television episode assignments, to be completed prior to class.
3. Participation in class discussion.
4. Preparation of two discussion hand-outs.

GRADING POLICY

Course grades will be based on the following formula:

1. Class participation – 50%
2. Discussion hand-outs (2) – each hand-out worth 25%

COURSE OUTLINE

- 1/26 Introduction
- 2/2 “World Affairs Roundup” (January 30 *International Focus*)
- 2/9 “The Dollar, The Euro and World Finance” (February 6 *International Focus*)
- 2/16 “World Affairs Roundup” (February 13 *International Focus*)
- 2/23 “US Intelligence Reform” (February 20 *International Focus*)

- 3/2 (February 27 *International Focus*)
- 3/9 (March 6 *International Focus*)
- 3/16 (March 13 *International Focus*)
- 3/23 Spring Break
- 3/30 (March 27 *International Focus*)
- 4/6 (April 3 *International Focus*)
- 4/13 (April 10 *International Focus*)
- 4/27 (April 24 *International Focus*)
- 5/4 (May 1 *International Focus*)
- 5/11 (May 8 *International Focus*)

UNIVERSITY AND INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

- **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students are required to comply with all university rules related to academic misconduct, including Chapter UWS 14, entitled "Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures," of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- **ADD/DROP PROCEDURES:** Please consult <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DES/Schedule/Spring/spring.pdf> for university procedures and for the Spring 2005 deadlines chart.
- **TELEPHONE:** The instructor requests that you do not call him at his home. If you have an urgent concern, please send him an e-mail message and/or call his office: 414-229-5974.
- **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:** The instructor will provide "reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to all examinations and other academic requirements." Please inform your instructor of any conflicts between your academic responsibilities and your religious commitments.
- **DISABILITIES:** Any student with disabilities should inform the instructor of any special needs regarding examination procedures, seating in the classroom, or other matters, so that the instructor may make appropriate accommodations.
- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated. It subverts the mission of the University, and threatens the careers, education experiences, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.

GUIDELINES ON THE DISCUSSION HAND-OUT

- **FORMAT:** Hand-outs should be 1-2 pages typed in length, in Microsoft Word (preferred) or Corel WordPerfect format
- **DUE:** Hand-outs should be submitted by e-mail to the instructor (rjbeck@uwm.edu) on the Monday evening (by 5 PM) after the assigned *International Focus* episode has been broadcast (the hand-out for a March 6 *International Focus* would be due on or before 5 PM Monday, March 7, in anticipation of the Wednesday, March 9 class)
- **CONTENT:** Hand-outs should include
 - a prose summary of the broadcast, at least one paragraph in length
 - at least 5 discussion questions related to the *International Focus* broadcast and its supporting readings
 - a list of 5 web sites relevant to the *International Focus* broadcast and its supporting readings

Hand-outs may also include:

- maps, charts, diagrams, and statistics relevant to the *International Focus* broadcast

SOME GROUND RULES FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Respect opinions** that are expressed by your colleagues as expressions of their honest perceptions.
- **Respect time limitations** and the need to allow sufficient time for all your colleagues to voice their views.
- **Agreement as a group** need NOT be reached.
- **Make inquiries** of your colleagues to learn what has led them to think as they do.
- **Listen thoughtfully.**